

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Saturday, November 29, 1913.

Ground Phosphate Rock.

This is another material about which many are asking. It is a good article where the soil abounds in organic decay. On the black soils of our reclaimed swamp lands, it will take a better application than acid phosphate. Mixed with stable manure, it greatly

increases the effectiveness of the manure.

But applied on a soil that is deficient in humus or vegetable decay, it will take long time in coming into use. Dr. Hopkins found it valuable on the black prairie soils of Illinois, and he advocates its use. But the conditions are such that it soon becomes available, as the black prairie soils abound in humus like our black swamp soils.

Cultivation of Azaleas.

Can you tell me anything in regard to the proper treatment of azaleas. I have some planted in my lawn and want to give them the best possible treatment. What kind of manure is best for them? You do not say what kind of azaleas you have. Most of the common varieties are so easy in the greenhouses, are they not? There are several varieties of those, however, which are hardy as far north as New York City. The large white variety, Alba, and the purple, Phenomena, and the dwarf reddish purple one, Americana, are hardy, and Americana makes one of the prettiest of beds on the lawn, with the tall Alba in the middle. There are the Chinese and Japanese hardy sorts, and the native ones of our woods. None of the azaleas will abide a soil with lime in it. The best soil for them is the black peaty soil, such as is found in our southern cypress swamps, and leaf mold from the forest, but no animal manures should be used. The hardy varieties of the Chinese azaleas are evergreen, but the native ones are largely deciduous, and most of half shade suits them very well. In the level, moist soil of Eastern North Carolina almost any of the Chinese varieties are hardy, but only the three I have named would stand the winter at Richmond.

Growing Strawberries.

On account of raising strawberries for home, I ask your advice and will appreciate any information you can give me in regard to the preparation of the soil, when to plant and how they should be protected in winter. I am a young farmer, and know practically nothing about the growing of strawberries. Is there any money to be made with them at 19 cents a quart? Have only been reading your notes a short time and you may have told these things?

The character of the soil as regards moisture has a great deal to do with the productivity of strawberries. You are in the Piedmont section and I have found that on high land the strawberry plants are never so productive as on the low and moist lands of the Tidewater section. In course you can grow fair crops on upland if it is made fertile and the plants are well cared for; but the crop is always heavier on land where the water table in the soil is not too far down. I have grown very heavy crops on the upland lands in your section. The only plants there are the inability of the plants being caught by early frosts. The soil for strawberries, either upland or lowland, must be fertile and well manured. Stable manure is good, but is apt to bring in weeds and grass, and hence the market-growers generally use commercial fertilizer. The soil should be deeply plowed and put in ridges, and when the plants are now, and the land ready, you can plant them this fall. But if you still have the plants to get, and the soil to prepare, you had better defer the planting till March or April.

Growing Mushrooms.

How long does it generally take from the time a bed is spawned till the crop appears? I spawned a small bed five weeks ago, when the temperature in the bed was 50°, and the cellar temperature was 57°. The bed remains that temperature and the cellar has declined to 50°. The spawn has started nicely, but I have not put on the caps yet."

My practice has been to let the heat of the manure decline to 5° before putting the spawn on. This is because the spawn has run in a fine spore when growth is over a quart of muck or manure. I cover with a thin layer of fine garden soil. Usually it takes six weeks to start the crop. Every once or twice I have observed, fails once or twice in growing mushrooms, and then suddenly you get the hang of it and find it easy to grow them. I have grown them in all sorts of places, under the benches in a greenhouse, in a cold frame, in a box, in a pot, in compost heaps in the open ground in the fall, and I have grown them once outdoors than anywhere else. In fact, I think that a bed made two-thirds horse-droppings and one-third finely-chopped grass-seeds is better than manure alone. And the best spawn I have ever used was found under the horse-droppings in an old pasture.

But ammonia is a bad nitrogen, and we only use per cent nitrogen, and it is nitrogen we want rather than ammonia. Chants do not use ammonia till it has been changed into a nitrate by the soil bacteria. But why buy nitrogen? over every acre on your farm there is nitrogen enough to last for 60,000 years if no more was added, and it is constantly kept up. If you have a winter cover of crimson clover on your land it will give you more nitrogen than any of the low-grade fertilizers so commonly used by farmers in the South. Why buy what you can get free, and at same time be increasing the humus content in your soil? Practice a good rotation of crops and always have a soil to turn for your corn, and you will not need to bother about the percentage of ammonia in a manure. The others are trying to sell you manure. If you can depend on getting an average of ten cents a quart for the season through, you can make the strawberries very profitable on low, moist and very rich land. I have made 10,000 quarts an acre, but on upland you will be fortunate to get half that many. You will need no winter protection.

Ginseng, Once More.

A lady in the Tidewater section asks: "What is the best way to grow ginseng, and where can I find a market for dried herbs?" If I knew where I would not tell you where to get ginseng, for it would be a pure waste of money and labor for you to plant the stuff in your section especially. There is no sale for the cultivated roots and the only profit made in the cultivation of ginseng is for the next spring's fruiting. Then plant a new bed every year, and have one with its first crop and one with the second crop, and plow this one after the fruiting, for it is always better to plant a new bed than to try to keep an old one.

If you can depend on getting an average of ten cents a quart for the season through, you can make the strawberries very profitable on low, moist and very rich land. I have made 10,000 quarts an acre, but on upland you will be fortunate to get half that many. You will need no winter protection.

Crimson Clover for Corn and Cotton.

I have had very good crops of corn from turning under crimson clover and now have the clover on my land for cotton and corn especially for cotton. I am told that it will not pay for cotton to be sown in the clover, but it will be turned early in preparing land for cotton, as it is desirable to plow cotton land early to get it settled. But it will pay all the same to use the clover. It has answered its purpose as a winter cover crop, and you will gain enough to the soil to pay well for sowing. For corn, you need not be in hurry, for corn delights in freshly prepared land, and here where I live I have known the finest crops of corn made after the clover was ripe and done. This makes the corn later, and, as a rule, I would prefer to turn it as soon as in bloom, and then lime the land and harrow in the lime before planting the corn.

Cotton Anthracnose.

Will be safe to use seed from good, perfect balls from a field that was affected by the anthracnose or bollworm this year?

In all the cotton-growing section of Virginia there has been a great deal of complaint of the prevalence of this disease this summer. It is a disease that is always carried by the seed. The seed gets affected internally, and no treatment of the seed will avail to prevent it if the seed is affected.

Plants that have made decayed balls will make plenty of good ones, too, but it would not be safe to take these for seed. If they are parts of the field not affected, and are not diseased, and from any diseased plants, these may produce good seed. But if the same land is planted, the plants may become infected from the spores that will remain over and live on the dead stalks and this is another reason for a rotation of crops, since it is known that the spores may live in the field for a year or two. It is worse in wet weather and on moist lands.

Winter Eggs

You are sure to have plenty when eggs are scarce and high, if you use PRATTS Poultry Regular.

Packages 25c, 50c, \$1.00; 25 lb. pail \$2.50.

This standard digestive and tonic keeps hens in prime condition—up to their highest efficiency all the time. IT'S THE way to get eggs when prices are high. Satisfaction guaranteed or money back.

Don't let roup, colds, catarrh, etc., start.

Use ROUP REMEDY

PILLS OR POWDER

25c, 50c, and \$1.00

The best preventive—the sure cure. Refuse substitutes; insist on Pratts. Sold on Money Back Guarantee by Seed, Poultry Supply and Feed Dealers in Richmond and vicinity.

PRATT FOOD CO., Philadelphia—Chicago.

Your Suit and Overcoat

Can be selected to-day from a huge variety of new mid-season styles we've just gotten in—advanced English ideas in pencil stripe, club check and mixture suitings—chinchilla and other good overcoatings, in newest models. It will be neglecting your interest not to see these fresh, crisp goods before buying any clothes.

At \$15

We're showing some extra-ordinary values in all-wool Suits and Overcoats. Our claim is that you will have to pay \$3 to \$5 more for their equals elsewhere. They're remarkable values, and your opinion will concur with ours upon investigation.

At \$18, \$20, \$22.50

Cabinet upon cabinet of high grade clothing—suits in all fabrics; latest Norfolk, English and conservative models—overcoats in every conceivable fabric and shape. We've a particularly strong display of chinchillas in these price ranges.

At \$16.50

All-wool chinchilla overcoats, in the popular "guards" model that are marvels of value. English cut suits in navy gray, brown and olive mixtures—minutely detailed as to style and perfectly tailored.

At \$25, \$30, \$35

We're showing the finest suits and overcoats ready-to-wear—the envy of the high charging individual tailor. No matter how hard to fit you are, we have special cuts for irregular built men and will guarantee to fit you. We'll deliver anything you purchase to-day if you order it.

BURK & CO. Main and Eighth

HIGHLAND PARK GIRLS WINNERS

TWO FAVORITES COME IN FIRST

Defeat Barton Heights High School, 31 to 3—Snappy Game Was Played.

Royal Meteor Makes Show of His Field and Wins in Gallop. Duquense Also Won.

Norfolk, Va., November 28.—To-day's card at the Jamestown Jockey Club race track was pleasing to the bookies, for only two favorites came home in front.

There were seven races on the card, of which were won by horses that were not heavily played.

Royal Meteor, a three to five favorite, made a show of his field and won a gallon. This was a mile-and-seventy-yard-race, and the going was to the liking of Royal Meteor, who went out in front from the start and was never bothered.

Bluegill, from the stable of William Waller, in a hard fight to his self-tail, beat a likely field and won a gallon. This was a mile-and-a-half race with Spellbound in close pursuit. Blackford, the favorite in this race, did not get in the money. The books showed as much as 19 to 1 against the winner.

Bluegill, from the stable of William Waller, in a hard fight to his self-tail, beat a likely field and won a gallon. This was a mile-and-a-half race with Spellbound in close pursuit. Blackford, the favorite in this race, did not get in the money. The books showed as much as 19 to 1 against the winner.

Goldwyn, with McIntyre up, won his second straight victory in the meeting when he beat Anviri in a six-furlong sailing handicap.

Results:

First race—for two years old, selling, purse \$100, five and a half furlongs—Burrard, 167 (Neander), 7 to 5, 2 to 5, out, first; Pulsation, 167 (Center), 1 to 5, 4 to 5, 2 to 5, to-day; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.09 3-5.

Second race—for two years old, selling, purse \$100, five and a half furlongs—McHard, 167 (Hartford), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Miss Cross, 167 (Fayfield), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.09 3-5.

Third race—for two years old, selling, purse \$100, five and a half furlongs—Blackford, 167 (Blackford), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Miss Cross, 167 (Fayfield), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Goldwyn, 167 (Blackford), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Time, 1.09 3-5.

Fourth race—for two years old, selling, purse \$100, five and a half furlongs—Blackford, 167 (Blackford), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Goldwyn, 167 (Blackford), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.09 3-5.

Fifth race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Ling, 165 (Arran), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Flax, 165 (Watkins), 12 to 5, 1 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.11 3-5.

Sixth race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Ling, 165 (Arran), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Flax, 165 (Watkins), 12 to 5, 1 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.11 3-5.

Seventh race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Ling, 165 (Arran), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Flax, 165 (Watkins), 12 to 5, 1 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.11 3-5.

Eighth race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Ling, 165 (Arran), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Flax, 165 (Watkins), 12 to 5, 1 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.11 3-5.

Ninth race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Ling, 165 (Arran), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Flax, 165 (Watkins), 12 to 5, 1 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.11 3-5.

Tenth race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Ling, 165 (Arran), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Flax, 165 (Watkins), 12 to 5, 1 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.11 3-5.

Eleventh race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Ling, 165 (Arran), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Flax, 165 (Watkins), 12 to 5, 1 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.11 3-5.

Twelfth race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Ling, 165 (Arran), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Flax, 165 (Watkins), 12 to 5, 1 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.11 3-5.

Thirteenth race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Ling, 165 (Arran), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Flax, 165 (Watkins), 12 to 5, 1 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.11 3-5.

Fourteenth race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Ling, 165 (Arran), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day; Flax, 165 (Watkins), 12 to 5, 1 to 5, 1, even, second; Jeath, 167 (Sumter), 9 to 1, 4 to 5, to 5, third; Time, 1.11 3-5.

Fifteenth race—for three years old and up, selling, handicap, purse \$300, six furlongs—Gullwog, 165 (McIntyre), 1 to 5, 2 to 5, 1, even, second; Merryl, 165 (Burlingame), 7 to 1, 8 to 5, to 5, to-day